

PATENT

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated August 26, 2005. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, and 6-20 stand rejected. Claims 3-5 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Entry of the foregoing amendment and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6-9 and 11-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Erickson et al. (U.S. 6,426,394). The Examiner states that the reference discloses in Example 1, "a method of mixing a slurry of metallocene in mineral oil with a cocatalyst, then combining the mixture with a transport liquid comprising mineral oil, followed by injection of the mixture into a gas phase reactor for polymerization of propylene."

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Erickson et al. discloses preparing an unsupported catalyst precursor (SIZR4P) with MMAO in a solvent (heptane or isopentane or methyl chloride) or mineral oil. See Erickson et al. at col. 13, ll. 15-65. "After preparing the preactivated unsupported catalyst composition, additional *solvent* then was added... to bring the composition to its final composition, and the compositions were fed to a gas phase polymerization reactor via a catalyst injection tube and nozzle..." (emphasis added). Id. at col. 13, ll. 53-59. Erickson et al. makes no mention of a second oil, as required by the claims of the present application. Much less, Erickson et al. does not teach, show, or suggest mixing in a first vessel a catalyst slurry comprising a metallocene catalyst and a first oil, providing a transport medium comprising a second oil, and combining the transport medium and the catalyst slurry to form a catalyst mixture, as recited in claims 1 and 18 as well as those dependent therefrom. For at least this reason, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 6-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Shamshoum et al. (U.S. 6,239,058). The Examiner states that the reference "discloses a supported metallocene slurry (col. 7, lines 42-50) combined with TIBAL in mineral oil, and injected into a propylene reactor."

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. As the Examiner states, Shamshoum et al. discloses supplying a mineral oil (carrier fluid) to a mixing line 8, adding a cocatalyst (TIBAL) to

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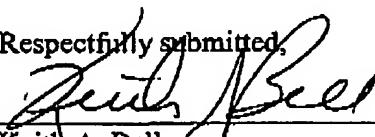
the mixing line 8, and then adding a catalyst to the line 8. That carrier fluid containing the catalyst components is supplied to a prepolymerization reactor 16 where the catalyst components react with propylene to form a prepolymer prior to being transferred to the main reactor 2. See Shamshoum et al. at col. 10, ll. 21-39. Shamshoum et al. is silent in regard to a second oil. Therefore, Shamshoum et al. does not teach, show, or suggest mixing in a first vessel a catalyst slurry comprising a metallocene catalyst and a first oil, providing a transport medium comprising a second oil, and combining the transport medium and the catalyst slurry to form a catalyst mixture, as recited in claims 1 and 18 as well as those dependent therefrom. For at least this reason, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

As mentioned above, claims 3-5 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant is amenable to presenting these claims in independent form except that Applicant believes claim 1, the base claim from which claims 3-5 depend, is allowable for the reasons presented above. As such, Applicant believes claims 3-5 are allowable in the current dependent form. Allowance of claims 3-5 is respectfully requested.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicant invites the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any issues outstanding which have not been addressed to the Examiner's satisfaction.

31 October 2005  
Date

Respectfully submitted,

  
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